(b) an Agreement on Principal Terms was signed with Oman in September; 1994. No advance was paid by the Government to Oman for the project.

(c) The Government is in touch with the Sultanate of Oman to ascertain the reasons for the delay in the feasibility study and for expediting the project.

Winding up of Major Public Sector Projects

1324. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Ministry of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken a policy decision to either with up or sell major public sector projects which have failed to take off;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 60,000 crores of rupees will be required to complete these projects at the revised cost estimate on 1994-95, please furnish details;

(c) what does the Government propose to do to check this steep cost overrun and time overruns; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the concerned officials, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No. Sir. In February 1996 Government accepted, in principle, the suggestions of the Group of Ministers on specific measures to cut delays in implementation of projects. One of the suggestions relates to weeding out/transferring to Joint/Private sector of the projects which are making slow progress in view of the resource crunch.

(b) No Sir. As on 31.3.1996 there were only 9 major projects (costing Rs. 100 crores and above) which had failed to take off as per the criteria suggested by the Group of Ministers and accepted by the Government i.e. where 5% of expenditure had been incurred and 60% of gestation period was over. The percentage of expenditure has been calculated taking the latest anticipated cost. The percentage of gestation period has been calculated taking the gestation period from the date of original sanction to the latest anticipated date of completion. The balance amount required for completion of these projects is Rs. 3465.25 crores as per their latest approved cost.

(c) Details of the steps taken to check the steep time and cost overrun in the implementation of projects, is enclosed as Statement. *(See* below)

(d) Time and cost overruns are the net result of several factors affecting a project. A number of the being outside the control of the project authorities, it has not been possible to pin point with certainity that any particular official is squarely responsible for the time and cost overrun in a particular project.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to streamline for preparing the original estimate and implementation of projects

(i) Two-stage project approval to ensure adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage II.

(ii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help management in taking remedial measures.

(iii) Indepth critical review of progress by project authorities and Administrative Ministries.

(iv) Setting up of Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

(v) Close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

(vi) Inter-ministrial coordination and interaction.

(vii) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan.

(viii) Review by the Committee of Secretaries of the specific projects facing constraints.

Land Racket in Varanasi

1325. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Wherher a land racket has been unearthed in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) Land is a State subject. According to the information furnished by Govt, of U.P., District Magistrate, Varanasi, an area measuring about 439.69 Acre at Varanasi had been notified in 1972 by the U.p. Avas Evam Vikas Parishad for its Tulsipur Grih-Sthan Yojna. Paper possession of 281.95 Acre was handed over to the Avas Evam Vikas Parishad but the land owners did not allow the Board to develop this land. The land, which was recorded earlier in the Board's name, was illegally allowed to be sold/mutated in the name of some Co-operative Societies & Colonisers. This, to has been reportedly done in connivance with the staff of Sub-Registrar's Office, revenue department, Development Authorities, Municipal Corporation, Urban ceiling and local tehsil.

(c) The matter is being investigated by State Govt.

मध्य प्रदेश में सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत लाई गई भूमि

1326. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने के कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जिलेवार और वर्ष-वार कुल कितनी भूमि को शामिल किया गया;

(ख) उपर्युक्त क्षेत्रों में आरम्भ की गई योजनाओं का आज तक का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग)आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत राज्य में इस प्रयोजनार्थ क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किये गए हैं; और

(घ) राज्य में आज तक जिले-वार क्या उपलब्धियां प्राप्त की गई हैं?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री चन्द्र देव प्रसाद वर्मा:) (क) 1993.94, 1994-95 एवं 1995-96 के विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में सूखाप्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत शामिल किए गए ब्लाकों की संख्या एवं क्षेत्र का जिलेवार ब्यौरा विवरण-1 में दिया गया है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) 1994-95 तक भूमि संसाधन विकास, जल संसाधन विकास तथा वनरोपण एवं चरागाह विकास के तीन मुख्य क्षेत्रों पर बल देते हुए सूखाप्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम को क्रियान्वित किया गया था। 1995-96 से आगे इस कार्यक्रम को वाटरशेड परियोजना के आधार पर क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है, जिसमें लगभग 500 हेक्टेयर के प्रत्येक वाटरशेड परियोजना की तकरीबन चार वर्षों की अवधि में विकसित किया जाना है।

(ग) आठवीं योजना के दौरान 1994-95 तक मध्य प्रदेश सहित राज्यों के लिए कोई पृथक लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया था। परन्तु 1995-96 से राज्य में 823 वाटरशेड परियोजनाओं को विकसित किया जाना है।

(घ) आठवीं योजना के दौरान 1994-95 तक तीन मुख्य क्षेत्रों के वित्तीय निष्पादन एवं भौतिक उपलब्धियों तथा 1995-96 के दौरान शुरू की गयी वाटरशेड परियोजनाओं की संख्या एवं उसके अंतर्गत हासिल हुई वित्तीय उपलब्धियों का जिलावार ब्यौरा विवरण-II में दिया गया है।

विवरण 1

मध्य प्रदेश में सूखाप्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत शामिल किए गए ब्लाकों की संख्या एवं क्षेत्र का जिलावार ब्यौरा

वर्ष	1993-94	एवं 1994-95
जिले का नाम	ब्लाकों की संख्या	क्षेत्र (वर्ग कि०मी० में)
1. बैतल	8	5643
2. धार	8	4981
3. झाबुआ	12	6791
4. खरगोन	7	4327
5. सीधी	8	10350
6. शहडोल	6	8858
कुल	49	40950